

# SAFESTAT REPORT

Highway Patrol Division  
Major Tony Almaraz

## Overview

The month of January 2007 officially kicked off in the Northern Command with no major events or incidents. From the relatively uneventful New Year's operations, there have been no post related concerns in either the urban or rural districts.

Internally, there has been some changes to the urban traffic shift schedules. As of January 15, all urban traffic operations have gone to a 5-8 schedule. This was done as a management decision based on the understaffed conditions that currently exist. In addition, fiscal responsibility and daily officer coverage played a key role in this decision. Currently, there is a committee that is being developed, to analyze the staffing problems and apply some solutions that can be carried out once proper staffing is reached. This same process will also examine the existing motor program in the North.

Accidents were on the decline for the month of January 2007. Some of this reduction can mostly be attributed to the lack of inclement weather as compared to last year. This combined with a decrease in area construction projects has undoubtedly played a role.

Field activity was down noticeably this reporting period. With the exception of speed enforcement, all other categories showed a reduction in enforcement. Some of this can be attributed to staff shortages and the change from 4-10's to 5-8's scheduling. The sergeant's have been encouraged to have their shifts identify more pro-active ways to work directed enforcement and implement other programs like the radar trailer in highly traveled areas. In the CTM and Fernley/Fallon Districts, however, there was an increase in activity that should be noted as commendable. And even though Commercial Enforcement was inundated with training, they were able to meet their objectives as scheduled.

As with any change to a command structure, shift schedules or performance expectations, there is always a time frame for adjustment. At times, activity and productivity are effected in different ways. Nonetheless, the Northern Command personnel will take these changes and apply them to what they know is best served. The men and women of this command are professionals, and will provide a service to the public, as has been accomplished throughout the years past. Staffing levels will increase, and I appreciate the patience during this difficult time.

### Content:

Crash Analysis  
Field Enforcement  
    Traffic  
    Commercial  
    Air Operations  
Administrative Services  
    Front Office  
    Communications  
    Public Information

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## CRASH ANALYSIS AND OVERVIEW

	Jan 07		Jan 06	% Change		Dec-06	% Change
Total Crashes	360		427	-15.7%		433	-16.9%
Property Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	259		316	-18.0%		289	-10.4%
Injury Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	99		109	-9.2%		139	-28.8%
Fatal Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	2		2	0.0%		5	-60.0%
DUI Crashes [DUI charged]	12		20	-40.0%		20	-40.0%
Total persons killed in fatal crashes	3		2	50.0%		5	-40.0%
Total drivers killed without seatbelts	0		0	0.0%		1	-100.0%
Total passengers killed without seatbelts	1		1	0.0%		1	0.0%
Total drivers killed with seatbelts	1		1	0.0%		1	0.0%
Total passengers killed with seatbelts	1		0	100.0%		1	0.0%
Total persons killed - seatbelts not applicable	0		0	0.0%		1	-100.0%
Total number of commercial vehicle crashes	16		18	-11.1%		21	-23.8%
Property crashes involving commercial vehicles	10		10	0.0%		16	-37.5%
Injury crashes involving commercial vehicle	5		7	-28.6%		5	0.0%
Fatal crashes involving commercial vehicle	1		1	0.0%		0	100.0%

Percentage of fatal crashes to total crashes 0.6%

Percentage of DUI crashes to total crashes 3.3%

Percentage of persons killed *without* seatbelts to total persons killed 33.3%

Percentage of commercial vehicle crashes to total crashes 4.4%

### CRASH ANALYSIS:

The Northern Command again showed very positive numbers in the reduction of crashes on our highways. Total crashes decreased by 16.9% from last month and 15.7% from last year's. Property Crashes were reduced by 10.4% last month and 18% last year. Injury Crashes were reduced by 28.8% last month and 9.2% from last year. Fatal Crashes were reduced by 60% from last month and remained the same as last year at 2. Commercial vehicle crashes also continue to drop to aggressive efforts by the Commercial Section and the Fernley/Fallon District.

## FIELD ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

[Analysis and review of current reporting period, versus same period in previous fiscal year, versus previous reporting period]

	Jan 07		Jan 06	% Change		Dec-06	% Change
DUI arrests from crashes **	12		20	-40.0%		20	-40.0%
DUI arrests <i>prior</i> to crashes **	89		83	7.2%		99	-10.1%
Other Arrests	428		431	-0.7%		536	-20.1%
Total persons arrested (DUI included) **	195		199	-2.0%		248	-21.4%
Speed violations	2118		1973	7.3%		1490	42.1%
Hazardous moving violations	693		760	-8.8%		826	-16.1%
Occupant restraint violations *	289		314	-8.0%		227	27.3%
Total violations [above violations included]	5692		5655	0.7%		5239	8.6%
<b>Commercial Enforcement</b>							
Hazardous moving violations - citations/arrests	29		83	-65.1%		24	20.8%
Other traffic violations - citations/arrests	59		80	-26.3%		47	25.5%
Total safety inspections [level 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6]	726		655	10.8%		824	-11.9%
Terminal inspections [level 5] CR only	2		3	-33.3%		0	200.0%
Total safety violations -- citation	252		258	-2.3%		302	-16.6%
Total safety violations -- repair order	2267		1996	13.6%		2278	-0.5%
Total vehicles placed "Out of Service"	95		89	6.7%		120	-20.8%
Total drivers placed "Out of Service"	66		67	-1.5%		88	-25.0%
Total school buses inspected	0		15	-100.0%		57	-100.0%
Total school buses placed "Out of Service"	0		1	-100.0%		2	-100.0%
Total trucks weighed	723		2299	-68.6%		92	685.9%
Total overweight citations	25		63	-60.3%		18	38.9%
Total dyed fuel inspections	301		441	-31.7%		303	-0.7%
Total dyed fuel citations	0		0	0.0%		2	-100.0%

\* Seat belt and child restraint

\*\* Commercial Enforcement Activity Included

### FIELD ENFORCEMENT:

Overall enforcement efforts were positive, with total citation increase of 8.6% last month and .7% last year. The reason was an increased effort in the Carson and Fernley/Fallon Districts. The ups and downs from last month in individual areas were more than normal. Speed citations went up by 42.1%, but Hazardous citations were down 16.1%. Seatbelt citations went up by 27.3%, but Arrests went down by 21.4%.

The Commercial Enforcement Section remained strong and they are at or above needed levels to meet the Federal Goals.

## **RENO URBAN TRAFFIC**

Once again, the urban area was understaffed with only 29 troopers available. Thirty-nine positions are allotted to Reno Urban Traffic Operations. The manpower shortage has made it necessary for the urban area to revert back to eight hour scheduling. However, a trooper will be released from PSTO training next month and another trooper will be reporting from Southern Command on February 5. One trooper remains on active military duty.

The urban area crash statistics showed a downward trend for the fourth consecutive month. Total crashes handled was 198, compared to 214 or 7.5% less than the previous month. In addition, there was a 9% decrease over the same period last month. Injury crashes were down by more than 23% over last month. The urban area had one fatal crash that is being handled by the S.I.R.T. team.

Of the 198 crashes this month, 4 were identified as being alcohol related. This was down by 3 over the previous month. Six of the crashes involved commercial vehicles, which is down by 50% over the previous month.

Enforcement activity in all categories except speed enforcement was down from the previous month. Total activity was 2,139, which is down by 18.5%. Total persons arrested was down by more than 31%, and DUI arrests by more than 28%.

The Dayshift Sergeants deployed the radar trailer in Washoe Valley for two days during the month.

## **CARSON/TAHOE/MINDEN**

The Carson/Tahoe/Minden District showed an average decrease of 31.5% in the areas of Total, Property, and Injury crashes compared to both last month as well as last year respectively. Fatal and DUI crashes were up slightly compared to last year and down an average of 43.8% comparatively to previous month.

CTM handled on fatal for the month of January. This crash occurred on SR 88 and Kimmerling in Douglas County. The driver of the at fault vehicle failed to stop at the stop sign and pulled directly into the path of a tractor-trailer. The driver and passenger were killed instantly. It is unknown if alcohol was a factor in this accident.

The District showed an increase in all areas of enforcement, by an average of 47.4% excluding DUI Arrest's from Crashes and Hazardous Moving violations compared to last year by 37.5% and 3% respectively.

Both Day and Swing shifts utilized the aircraft once per shift.

A trooper completed PSTO in the middle of January and is currently working on swing shift. A trooper is currently supporting the Court/Warrants detail while a trooper recovers from the infection in his knee. It is anticipated that trooper will return in mid-March.

## **FERNLEY/FALLON**

The Fernley/Fallon District is authorized 17 troopers and 2 sergeants. For the month of January, the District carried two vacancies. The District also welcomed Trooper Crisp to its ranks. A trooper transferred in from Central Command, which allowed another trooper's reassignment to SIRT in Reno. Another trooper is scheduled to transfer into the Fernley area late in February, which will fill one of the two vacancies.

Winter weather was unseasonably mild for the month of January compared to previous years. This milder weather resulted in fewer weather related crashes. There were 4 weather related crashes this year compared to 14 last year. Weather along with enforcement, were the most likely reasons for a reduction in area crashes.

This month the District is reporting an 18.5% reduction in total crashes compared to the previous year, and a 24.3% reduction compared to last month. The largest reduction came in a 29.8% reduction in property damage crashes compared to last year, and a 31.3% reduction compared to last month. The District did report three more injury crashes this month compared to last year, but zero fatal crashes this month compared to one last year, and three last month.

Fewer crashes resulted in more time for field enforcement. More enforcement proactively reduces crashes. The District reported one of its strongest months of field enforcement efforts to date.

Even with the reported 9.4% reduction in total hours worked, the District's personnel stepped up to the challenges and reported its highest violation to sergeant/trooper ratio of 92.4 total violations. The breakdown of this ratio consists of increases in the following categories: Speed violations up 25.9%, Hazardous moving violations up 34.9%, Occupant restraint violations up 19.1% for a 15.8% increase in Total violations this month compared to last year, and a 29.1% increase compared to last month. In addition to the strong enforcement numbers, overtime was reduced by 64.2% compared to last year and 60.5% compared to last month.

I would like to recognize those area troops who stepped up their enforcement efforts this month, and their sergeants for encouraging them to do so. Area sergeants have reported that most all of the area troopers increased their individual activity this month. The Northern Command appreciates all of the hard work that was accomplished towards our goals and objectives. A job well done! We encourage every officer to continue their enforcement efforts and to address our challenges head-on.

## **COMMERCIAL ENFORCEMENT**

The Northern Command Commercial Enforcement section currently has 22 authorized positions. During the month of January, the commercial staffing level had three vacant positions. Near the end of January, we had two troopers transfer into the Commercial Enforcement section. One trooper came from the Dignitary Protection Detail. The second trooper transferred from traffic division and was temporarily assigned to assist SIRT Division. Also in January, another commercially trained trooper was temporarily assigned to help re-write the current accident investigation lesson plan. Along with the re-write, the trooper will assist in the instructing of the upcoming academy classes throughout the state. We do not expect him back for several months.

In January, the Northern Command hosted the first 2006-2007 NAS "A" and "B" classes. These classes were held in the Reno Highway Patrol training room. The Commercial Enforcement section continued its mandatory certification training, with four of its personnel attending these classes. Two of our recent certified instructors were selected to teach the NAS "A" and "B" classes in Reno and the General Roadside Hazardous class held in Salt Lake City, Utah. In January, one other commercial personnel attended the COMED conference, which was held in Salt Lake City, Utah. Training made up a total of 12.7% of our total time, which was an increase from the previous month and the previous year.

In January, the Judicial Out-reach Program (JOP) and industry training were our primary focus. The state JOP representatives met in January at the Reno Nevada Highway Patrol

office. A new Northern Command JOP representative was selected and will be meeting with the commercial sergeants and the local judges in the upcoming months. The commercial sergeants met with the Nevada Motor Transport Association (NMTA) members and a cargo security class was conducted for some local business owners. Strike Team and S.T.E.P. programs were not conducted due to the temporary suspension of available funds. We hope to resume these programs in March.

January is the fourth month of the 2006-2007 Federal Fiscal Year. At the end of the first federal quarter, the Northern Command Commercial Enforcement section exceeded most of its goals and objectives set forth in the 2006-2007 Commercial Vehicle Safety Plan (CVSP). In January, the Northern Command Commercial Enforcement section will be concentrating on passenger bus inspections.

In January, the Northern Command Commercial Enforcement section handled a total of seven crashes; five property damage crashes and two injury crashes. One of the injury crashes involved a commercial motor vehicle (CMV). The commercial section also assisted the traffic division with 26 crashes. Out of these 26 crashes, six involved a commercial motor vehicle. January was a very cold and icy month.

### ***INTERAGENCY CRIMINAL ENFORCEMENT (ICE) TEAM***

This is the seventh month of statistics reporting for the DPS Northern Command ICE Team as it has just become functional officially July 1, 2006. There are no comparison statistics for prior annual periods.

We handled one property damage accident this period during the severe weather on January 4.

Field enforcement activity included:

- One contact resulting in \$144,910 in U.S. currency seized.
- One contact resulting in a warrant arrest and PCS Marijuana, less than an ounce.
- One contact resulting in a DUI arrest and five additional misdemeanor arrests.

The ICE Team is currently staffed with 3 officers and 1 Sergeant. Total work hours lost was 286, or 41.33% of the 692 total staff hours. This is not including the loss of our P & P officer, who was on temporary assignment with his agency for the entire month. Our officers attended 196 hours of training (Commercial Part "A" and "B"). We used 32 hours of annual leave, 4.25 hours of comp leave, 15.5 hours of sick leave, 24 hours to special assignments and 8 hours of holiday leave. We accrued 14 hours of overtime. We accrued zero hours of comp time. We also spent the shift on January 4 assisting Traffic Operations with numerous accidents and weather-related issues.

As annotated above, the majority of this month was spent in training, on leave, or in other assignments. The allied agencies are still committing staffing. K9's and pending equipment are still in high demand while the processes ensuring their arrival are moving along. More equipment is arriving with only a few of the more crucial items still pending arrival.

It is expected that our P & P officer will return to the team around February 26. With this officer and the anticipated additional shifts from the other agencies expected, we should see an increase in patrol hours on the road.

## AIR OPERATIONS

The Northern Command aircraft flew a total of 56 hours during January. Of the total, 36.4 hours, or 65% of the total flight time, was spent on airborne speed enforcement activities. One In-State prisoner transport and one personnel transport from Elko to Carson City and back accounted for 10.5 flight hours, or 19% of the flight time. Four flight hours were spent on pilot training on the newly installed IFR GPS. NDOT used the aircraft 4.2 hours.

The newly certified aircraft enforcement sites at Dayton and Farm District Road east of Fernley were put into service this month. The month's high speed, 97 mph in a 55 zone, was clocked at the Dayton site.

An ambitious flight schedule for the month resulted in 17 scheduled speed enforcement missions. Ten were actually flown. Four were cancelled due to inclement weather. One was cancelled for a Headquarters staff meeting, one was cancelled for maintenance and one was cancelled for a personnel transport on an OPR issue.

A total of 480 enforcement actions were taken. The breakdown is as follows:

Speed	92
Hazardous Moving	7
Non Hazardous	75
Seat Belt	6

There were 12 motorist assists located. One vehicle was impounded.

Total enforcement activity was up 53% compared to the same period last year.

## ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	January 2007	January 2006	% Change	December 2006	% Change
<b>FRONT OFFICE</b>					
Accident Reports Processed	434	578	-24.91%	365	+18.90%
Arrest Reports Processed	186	204	-8.82%	184	+1.09%
Incident / Officer Reports Processed	10	15	-33.33%	20	-50.00%
Office Accident Reports Taken	43	13	+230.77%	20	+115.00%
Citations Processed	3665	4244	-13.71%	3587	+2.17%
<b>COURT / WARRANT</b>					
Warrants Received	455	304	49.67%	347	31.12%
Warrants Entered:	262	66	296.97%	312	-16.03%
Warrants Pack/Double Check:	770	66	1066.67%	325	136.92%
Warrants Cleared	511	453	12.80%	328	55.79%
Warrants Validated	1749	189	825.40%	1910	-8.43%
Warrants Updated or Purged	101	N/A	N/A	86	17.44%

TOTAL	3308	1078	247.59%	3308	13.27%
<b>COMMUNICATION CENTER</b>					
Radio Transmissions	109635	103624	5.80%	87549	25.23%
CAD incidents	14382	12976	10.84%	11368	26.51%

## FRONT OFFICE

One Administrative Assistant II position is still currently vacant in the Records Section. Both clerks involved with the Court Services section are still being heavily utilized for front office coverage due to the vacancy of the AAI position and front office changes. These 2 clerks have performed 70 court call-offs. They were also responsible for 21 court runs, processing 246 subpoenas, processing 493 citations for court, and transporting 152 pieces of miscellaneous court paperwork. Overtime utilized by the records section continues to be for assistance with the second-check backlog, and archiving the 2001 DUI and fatal accident reports.

The film clerk processed 161 Veripic cases this period, as well as 27 digital photo requests and 2 35mm requests. She is still doing storekeeping duties and back-up to the Evidence Custodian.

Sick leave increased this period by 3% due to the cold and flu season, with compensatory leave heavily decreasing by 85%. Annual leave decreased by 80%. Paid overtime increased by 5%. Compensatory time earned decreased by 40% despite the front office changes and vacancy. Paid overtime and compensatory time needs to continue for performing tasks optimally due to the vacant AAI position.

Office reports taken increased to 43 for the month. Accident reports taken by troopers increased by 19% this period. Arrest reports increased by 1%. Incident reports taken by officers have decreased by 50%. Citations issued and processed increased by 2%.

## COURT WARRANTS

Court warrants personnel are functioning with improved filing and recordkeeping. Recent personnel developments have called for improvement in quality control and recordkeeping. Due to this, an audit of the more than 17,000 warrants are being conducted. Some courts have already commented on the improvement. With one AAI on extended sick leave, the section is functioning with 50% of its personnel. The Communications Manager is aiding with the workload.

## COMMUNICATIONS

The Northern Command Communication center is down 3 PSD I positions. We are awaiting background checks to attempt to fill them. One PSD I is currently in training and due to be released to a shift at the end of February. One applicant has passed backgrounds and began employment on January 29. Another is pending passing background and will be given an offer of employment in February. Twelve more applicants are awaiting backgrounds.

Total work hours lost increased by 4.75% since last month primarily due to an increase in giving rescheduled days off for holidays. It increased by 23.45% from the previous year for the same reason.

Paid overtime decreased by 8.84% when compared to last month. Overtime as a whole increased by 75.40% when compared to the same period last year and decreased by 6.24% when compared to last month.

The increases over last year can be attributed to a lack of personnel. In January of 2006, there were 14 PSD positions filled. There were 11 during all but 2 days of the month of January. The most significant differences in allocation can be seen between January of 2006 & 2007.

A comparison of December 2006 to January 2007 only sees a small rise in hours lost and a decrease in overtime, causing an overall change of 7.62%, accounted for by the increase in personnel by 1 person.

Radio transmissions increased by 5.80% over this period last year and increased 25.23% since last month. CAD incidents have increased by 10.84% over last year and 26.51% since last month. These fluctuations appear to be caused by increased traffic calls and the number of units in the field. Some can also be attributed to weather related issues. This increase also shows that the personnel are working even harder while the number of personnel decreases.

## **PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR**

Northern Command was off to a great start in 2007 as no fatality accidents were reported over the New Years Day holiday weekend. Several proactive news stories with the local media encouraging people who indulged in alcoholic beverages to designate a sober driver most likely contributed to the reduction in alcohol-related crashes.

Trooper Allen continues to work for the Director of Public Safety as the state public information officer until that position is filled. Our area continues to provide five live traffic reports on News Channel 8 each weekday morning as well as live traffic reports with 94.5 FM Cub country radio.

We provided lectures to two drivers' education classes during the month and facilitated two traffic safety presentations to over 150 employees of International Gaming Technology (IGT) in Reno.

To prepare for an upcoming speed awareness campaign, law enforcement personnel from a number of agencies from around our state gathered in Las Vegas to meet and discuss strategies with the Office of Traffic Safety personnel. Over 86,000 dollars in grant money will be available for additional shifts in an effort to target speeding drivers during the month of March. Our safety messages will include "leave speed at the track" and "many agencies, one mission, keep Nevada safe" will be broadcasted on many public service announcements in the upcoming weeks.

Motor officers from around the state also assembled to film a commercial emphasizing the common goal of the participating agencies to reduce the speeding violations and to make drivers aware that speeding violators will be cited.

Command staff personnel from a number of law enforcement agencies from around the state were invited to a dinner hosted by Special Olympics Nevada in Las Vegas. The senior leadership in attendance was updated on the mission law enforcement has with this non-profit organization which is also recognized by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) as their charity of choice.

Upcoming events for 2007 including "tip-a-cops" and "doughnut shop sits" were discussed with the hopeful expectation that support for this organization will continue to grow.

Lastly, members from the DPS honor guard were a part of the opening ceremonies of the Governor's Inaugural Ball held at the Silver Legacy Resort in Reno. 4 troopers and 2 sergeants from the honor guard team participated in the "grand march" prior to the presentation of the colors which was facilitated by the Army and Air National Guard. With over 3,000 people in attendance, our agency was honored and privileged to be part of this gala event.

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*Commercial and SIRT*

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*Carson City/Minden/Lake Tahoe*